

**Preliminary Amendment of U.S. National Stage for International Application  
PCT/EP03/00066 filed January 7, 2003**

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 1-40, without prejudice, and add new claims 41-60, in accordance with the following complete listing of all claims ever presented. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the instant application:

**Claims 1-40 (Canceled)**

**Claim 41 (New):** A process for producing a cosmetic and/or pharmaceutical active component, said process comprising:

- (a) providing a fermentation broth comprising a plant component selected from the group consisting of plant constituents, plant extracts and mixtures thereof;
- (b) inoculating the fermentation broth with a microorganism; and
- (c) fermenting the microorganism-containing fermentation broth to produce an active component.

**Claim 42 (New):** The process according to claim 41, wherein the plant component is derived from a plant selected from the group consisting of potatoes, rice, soya, wheat, barley, oats, rye, buckwheat, beans, peas, linseeds, cotton, sesame, lupins, rape, hemp, coconut palm, sunflowers, lucerne, hibiscus, maca, quinoa, almond, moringa, silk, baobab, cassia, irvingia, thistle, oil palm and mixtures thereof.

**Claim 43 (New):** The process according to claim 41, wherein the plant component comprises a plant constituent selected from the group consisting of seeds, nodules, roots, leaves, fruits and mixtures thereof.

**Claim 44 (New):** The process according to claim 41, wherein the plant component is selected from the group consisting of protein concentrates, hydrolyzates and isolates.

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Claim 45 (New): The process according to claim 41, wherein the fermentation broth is adjusted to a pH of from 4.5 to 8.5 prior to fermentation.

Claim 46 (New): The process according to claim 41, further comprising pretreating the fermentation broth prior to inoculating, wherein the pretreatment is selected from pastuerization, sterilization and combinations thereof.

Claim 47 (New): The process according to claim 46, wherein the pretreatment is carried out at a temperature of from 60 to 135°C.

Claim 48 (New): The process according to claim 46, wherein the pretreatment is carried out over a period of from 1 to 30 minutes.

Claim 49 (New): The process according to claim 41, wherein the fermentation broth is inoculated with a mixture of microorganisms.

Claim 50 (New): The process according to claim 41, wherein the microorganism comprises a component selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus*, *Lactococcus* and *Leuconostoc*.

Claim 51 (New): The process according to claim 49, wherein at least one microorganism comprises a component selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus*, *Lactococcus* and *Leuconostoc*.

Claim 52 (New): The process according to claim 51, wherein at least one microorganism comprises a yeast.

Claim 53 (New): The process according to claim 41, wherein the fermentation is carried out at a temperature of from 10 to 47°C.

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Claim 54 (New): The process according to claim 41, further comprising separating the active component from the fermented broth, wherein the separation is carried out in a manner selected from the group consisting of centrifugation, filtration, extraction, chromatography and precipitation.

Claim 55 (New): The process according to claim 41, wherein the plant component is derived from a pea plant.

Claim 56 (New): A process for producing a cosmetic and/or pharmaceutical active component, said process comprising:

(a) providing a fermentation broth comprising a plant component selected from the group consisting of plant constituents, plant extracts and mixtures thereof, and subjecting the fermentation broth to a pretreatment selected from pastuerization, sterilization and combinations thereof;

(b) inoculating the fermentation broth with a mixture of microorganisms, wherein at least one microorganism comprises a component selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus*, *Lactococcus* and *Leuconostoc*, and wherein at least one microorganism comprises a yeast;

(c) fermenting the microorganism-containing fermentation broth to produce an active component; and

(d) separating the active component from the fermented broth, wherein the separation is carried out in a manner selected from the group consisting of centrifugation, filtration, extraction, chromatography and precipitation.

Claim 57 (New): A cosmetic and/or pharmaceutical preparation comprising an active component prepared by the process according to claim 41.

Claim 58 (New): A cosmetic and/or pharmaceutical preparation comprising an active component prepared by the process according to claim 56.

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Claim 59 (New): The preparation according to claim 57, wherein the active component is present in an amount of from 0.01 to 5% by weight, based on the preparation.

Claim 60 (New): A method of treating a substrate, said method comprising:

(a) providing a substrate selected from the group consisting of skin and hair; and

(b) contacting the substrate with an active component prepared by the process according to claim 41.